

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



January 12, 1993

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 93-06

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☒ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☐ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: MINORS IN FOSTER CARE  
APPLICATION FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE

The purpose of this notice is to transmit information on revisions to the Health and Safety Code, and the Vehicle Code that affect minors in foster care who are dependents or wards of the court, and who are applying for a driver's license in the State of California.

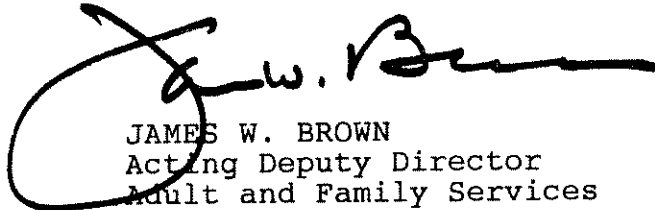
Currently, existing law prohibits the Department of Motor Vehicles from accepting an application for a driver's license from any minor without the written consent of the minor's parents, guardians, or custodians. Effective January 1, 1993, sections of the Health and Safety Code and the Vehicle Code will be amended as a result of Assembly Bill 2691 (Chapter 865, Statutes of 1992), to allow persons other than the minor's parents or guardians, or custodians to sign the minor's application for a driver's license. After January 1, 1993, the minor, if a dependent or ward of the court, can submit an application that has been signed by a grandparent, a sibling over the age of 18, an aunt, an uncle, or a foster parent with whom the minor resides. The probation officer or child protective services worker acting as an officer of the court, on behalf of the child, may also sign and verify the application of a minor who is a dependent or ward of the court, if the minor files proof of financial responsibility.

Proof of financial responsibility may be given by the written certificate of any insurance carrier duly authorized to do business within California, that it has issued to or for the benefit of the person named therein a motor vehicle liability insurance policy that is currently in full force and effect that insures the minor against loss from the liability imposed by law for damages of at least fifteen thousand dollars for bodily injury to or death of each person as a result of any one accident and, the amount of at least thirty thousand dollars for bodily injury to or death of all persons as a result of any one accident, and the amount of at least five thousand dollars for damage to property of others as a result of any one accident.

If the minor requests their probation officer or child protective services worker to sign the application, prior to signing, the probation officer or child protective services worker must notify the foster parents or other responsible party of their intent to sign for the minor.

The liability of a minor's driving is imposed upon the person who signed the application for a license, and the person will be jointly liable with the minor for any damages resulting from the negligent or wrongful act or omission of the minor in driving a motor vehicle. However, no civil liability may be imposed on the State or county, or on a probation officer or child protective services worker pursuant to California Vehicle Code Sections 17707 (Minor's Negligence) & 17708 (Liability of Parent or Guardian).

If you have questions regarding this information, contact your Child Welfare Services Operations consultant at (916) 657-2189.



JAMES W. BROWN  
Acting Deputy Director  
Adult and Family Services

cc: County Welfare Directors Association